



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
-----

R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER, 1940.  
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and to the Calne Borough.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

COLONEL W. J. POWELL, C.I.E., M.D., D.P.H., has been acting Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer since October, 1939, owing to the absence of Dr. Broomhead on active service.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:-

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E., who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS, &c.:-

G. E. WILLIAMS, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER, 1940.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report  
for the year ending December, 1940.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers  
and Staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

Statistics and Social Conditions  
of the Area.

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Areas (in acres) .....	86,034
Population (modified figure).....	22,100
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1940 according to Rate Books).....	5739
Rateable value (1st April 1941).....	£119,290
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£480

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are  
agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove  
making in Corsham.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	159	130	289
Illegitimate.	9	8	17
	<u>168</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>306</u>

Birth rate.....13.8 per 1000.  
 Birth rate for E. & W.....14.6 per 1000.

Still Births -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	6	4	10
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>

Rate per 1000 total births..... 31.9 per 1000.

Deaths -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	143	140	283

Death rate ..... 12.80 per 1000.  
 Death rate for E & W..... 14.3 per 1000

Deaths of Infants under one year -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	16	5	21
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>22</u>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age -

All Infants per 1000 Live Births..... 70.2

Death rate for E. & W..... 55

Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births..... 70.9

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births..... 58.7

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Causes of Death .	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intra-cran:vasc: lesions.....	12	11	23
Pneumonia (all forms).....	13	7	20
Bronchitis.....	14	17	31
Other respiratory diseases.....	1	2	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System....	4	4	8
Other Tuberculosis.....	3	2	5
Cancer.....	15	19	34
Road Traffic Accidents.....	5	-	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	-	1
Appendicitis.....	1	1	2
Other circulatory disease.....	1	7	8
Other digestive disease.....	3	3	6
Heart Disease.....	22	36	58
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	7	6	13
Premature Birth.....	7	2	9
Con: mal: birth inj: infant:dis:.....	3	1	4
Diabetes.....	-	2	2
Other violence.....	6	-	6
All other Causes.....	15	14	29
Diarrhoea, under two years.....	3	1	4
Diphtheria.....	2	-	2
Influenza.....	4	5	9
Measles.....	1	-	1
TOTAL.....	143	140	283

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever.....	63
Diphtheria.....	36
Pneumonia.....	36
Erysipelas.....	8
Whooping Cough.....	2
Measles.....	259
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1



SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1940.

Name of School.	Period of Closure. (inclusive dates)	Reason of Closure.
Sutton Bengier and Sutton Bengier evacuee.	From 8.1.40 to 9.2.40.	Diphtheria.
Seagry.	From 9.1.40 to 9.2.40.	Diphtheria in district.
Castle Combe.	From 23.1.40. to 2.2.40.	Influenza.
Kington St. Michael.	From 25.1.40. to 2.2.40.	Influenza.
Kington St. Michael.	From 13.2.40. to 16.2.40.	Lack of water.
Chapel Knap, Corsham.	From 14.2.40. to 23.2.40.	German Measles.
Castle Combe.	From 21.2.40. to 23.2.40.	Influenza.
East Tytherton.	From 4.3.40. to 8.3.40.	German Measles.
Grittleton.	From 8.3.40. to 21.3.40.	Influenza.
Colerne.	From 30.9.40. to 18.10.40.	Measles.
Box.	From 14.10.40. to 25.10.40.	Measles.
Lacock & Lacock Abbey.	From 23.10.40. to 8.11.40.	Scarlet Fever.
Bremhill.	From 4.11.40. to 8.11.40.	Scarlet Fever.
Heddington.	From 11.11.40. to 15.11.40.	Chickenpox.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S .

The details of the Water Supplies afforded in each Parish were given in the report for 1938 and with the exception of the inclusion of the usual data it appears unnecessary to repeat the details in this report.

Mention, however, should be made of the good progress being made with the Regional Water Scheme, and it is anticipated that it will be completed during 1941. It is the intention to give a comprehensive report on the Scheme and its layout, together with a map showing the Region concerned, in a subsequent report.

WIDDENHAM WATER SUPPLY.

1940.	<u>Gaugings,</u> <u>gallons per day.</u>	<u>Consumption,</u> <u>gallons per day.</u>	<u>Rainfall.</u> <u>Inches.</u>
January.	390,303	101,927	.73
February.	493,161	111,101	3.99
March.	501,752	101,953	2.18
April.	422,884	99,109	3.02
May.	380,299	101,818	1.16
June.	270,066	116,204	.93
July.	185,188	150,877	2.96
August.	-	145,041	.05
September.	-	156,861	.93
October.	-	159,215	2.22
November.	315,862	147,116	7.18
December.	496,800	153,085	1.18
			<hr/> 26.53



NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Biddestone.	Springs (Mill Supply. Weavorn Springs.	..		1 1
Box.	Washwell. (Springs). Ditteridge. (Wells).	1		1 1
Box, Corsham and Colerne.	Hungerford Wood Springs (before chlorination). Hungerford Wood Springs. (after chlorination). New springs. Box Spring. Brook, Hungerford Wood.	.. .. 9 .. .. ..	1    1	4  2 1 1
Bromhill. Foxham.	Well and springs at. Stockham Marsh.	4		2
Tytherton. Foxham.	Springs at Wick Hill. New Springs, Stockham Marsh...	2		2  1
Corsham Water Company.	Springs at Loxwell. Goods Hill.	2 ..	4	1 1
Hilmarton.	Gathering ground at Catcombe.			1
Pewsham.			1	
		18	7	20

All samples for Bacteriological examination and Chemical analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

NEW WATER SERVICES.

Total number of premises connected to the Council's mains during the year 1940:-

Parish.

Box.....	14
Bremhill.....	15
Chippenham Without.....	3
Christian Malford.....	35
Colerne.....	3
Corsham.....	9
Castle Combe.....	18
Grittleton.....	3
Kington Langley.....	1
Kington St. Michael.....	4
Langley Burrell.....	3
Sutton Benger.....	20
Yatton Keynell.....	<u>27</u>
	<u>155</u>

DAILY CONSUMPTION.

Average daily consumption:-

1940.

Box (excluding supply from Washwell & Ditteridge..	41,532	gallons.
Colerne.....	8,250	"
Corsham.....	32,372	"
Neston.....	40,127	"
R.A.F. Station, Hulleavington.....	58,726	"
Yewstock - Regional Water Supply (16th July 1940).	229,809	"
Corsham Water Company.....	2,053	"

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A report relative to the drainage facilities in the respective Parishes was given in the 1938 report, hence as there has been no material alteration (with the exception of two Parishes) and in view of present circumstances, no useful purpose would be served in reiterating the details.

During the year under review the new Sewerage and Disposal Works at Corsham were completed. It is proposed to give a full description of the scheme and the Works at a more opportune time. The advent of this scheme has enabled the upper and lower outfalls to be abandoned, the former having been entirely demolished. The independent Sewage Disposal installation serving the Council Houses at Potley Lane and Gastard are now connected with the new scheme, hence these works are now dismantled.

New Sewage Disposal Works were also completed at Colerne, but the scheme did not include the sewerage of the whole village. This has been postponed until more favourable times. These works, however, have removed two sources from which nuisances were constantly recurring. Reference is made to the two old outfalls, where crude sewage was discharged into ditches, and therefore the removal of these outfalls can be appreciated. A full description of the works will be recorded in a subsequent report.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There was no specific case in which it was considered necessary to take any action to check the pollution of any river or stream.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This essential service of Public Health administration, which was originally undertaken by several individual contractors is now under the control of one Contractor.

The household refuse is now collected in a properly designed Scavenging Vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the Urban or Rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The only Parishes from which refuse is not collected by the Council are Castle Combe, Grittleton and Stanton St. Quintin. It is, however, probable that Castle Combe will be included in the ensuing year.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. Tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips provides an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be adopted.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

#### RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1923.

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

#### RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

During the year under review, the refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison by the Council's employees.

In addition the Council engage the services of a professional Rat Catcher to bait and attend to the Council's refuse tips twice yearly, and I am pleased to report that our refuse tips are now reasonably free from vermin.

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Despite war conditions efforts have been made to maintain the sanitary services of the district in a satisfactory manner and, while there has been unavoidable suspension or curtailment of various duties usually performed under normal conditions, additional tasks were undertaken in respect of Salvage, War Damage, Fire Brigades Organisation, Food Decontamination Scheme, etc. The department was also responsible for assisting the Chippenham Borough Sanitary Inspector in the examination of carcasses at the Central Slaughterhouse and Bacon Factories.



HOUSING.

The information regarding Housing Statistics is set out to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

1940.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:
  - (1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 6
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 83
  - (2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932..... 6
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 83
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... -
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 6
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 13
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:
  - (a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... -

1940.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners..... -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners..... -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: ..

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... -

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:....

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... -

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. -



1940.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	20
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.....	20
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	133
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	21
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	122½
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	-
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.....	-

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has built 228 houses, situated in the following Parishes:-

Parish.	No.
Biddestone.	2
Box.	30
Bremhill.	7
Calne Without.	20
Cherhill.	18
Christian Malford.	10
Compton Bassett.	4
Corsham.	68
Heddington.	6
Hilmarton.	11
Kington Langley.	12
Kington St. Michael.	6
Lacock.	21
Nettleton.	2
Sutton Benger.	<u>11</u>
	<u>228</u>

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

Parish.	New Dwelling Houses.	Alterations & Additions to existing houses.	Garages.	Miscel- laneous.
Biddestone.	-	2	-	-
Box.	9	3	3	3
Bremhill.	1	2	-	2
Calne Without.	1	1	-	1
Castle Combe.	-	3	-	-
Cherhill.	1	2	1	-
Chippenham Without.	96	3	-	-
Christian Malford.	-	-	-	-
Colerne.	-	1	-	-
Compton Bassett.	-	-	-	-
Corsham.	6	5	4	5
Grittleton.	1	-	-	-
Heddington.	-	-	-	-
Hilmarton.	-	-	-	1
Kington Langley.	-	-	-	-
Kington St. Michael.	-	-	-	-
Lacock.	-	-	-	-
Langley Burrell Without.	11	1	-	2
Nettleton.	-	-	-	-
North Wraxall.	-	-	-	-
Pewsham.	1	-	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	-	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	-	3	-	-
Yatton Keynell.	-	-	-	1
	<u>127</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

<u>Milk Supply.</u>	1940.
Number of Farms on Register.....	498
<u>Summary of Work carried out.</u>	
Total number of farms inspected during the year.....	12
Farms requiring structural alterations, cleansing, etc.....	12
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed.....	-
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition .....	7
Total number of inspections.....	12

Owing to the slaughtering of animals at specific Slaughter-houses in the County, consequent upon war conditions, there has been no routine examination of carcasses in this district.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Visits to Houses in connection with Systematic Housing Inspections .....	118
Houses Repaired .....	13
Council House Inspections.....	413
New Building Inspections.....	207
Houses connected with water mains of Council.....	155
Water Samples secured for analyses .....	79
Waterworks, Main Extension etc., Inspections.....	506
Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets.....	6
Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets.....	-
Earth Closets to Water Closets.....	7
New Pail Closets.....	3
New Water Closets.....	119
New Drainage systems provided to old premises.....	57
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions and drainage systems.....	103
Inspection of Refuse Tips.....	42
Inspection of Farms and Dairies.....	12
Slaughter-house Inspections.....	50
Overcrowding complaints dealt with .....	44
Factory and Workshops Inspections.....	4
Preliminary Notices served.....	6
Statutory Notices served.....	-
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases.....	75
Nuisances' Inspections.....	80
Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926.....	11
Inspection of Food Premises.....	4

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. POWELL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

